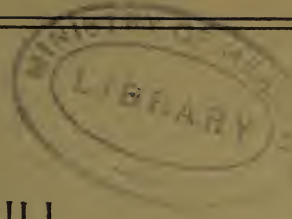




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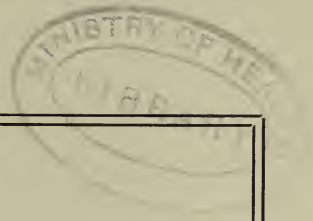
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For 1925.

PRINTED BY JOHN W. PHELP, QUEEN'S ROAD, BUCKHURST HILL,
ESSEX.



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BUCKHURST HILL
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year ending the 31st December, 1925.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	873 acres (land).
Population, Census, 1921	...				4,932.
Population, estimated, 1924	...				5,094.
Number of Inhabited Houses (1921)					1,100 (about).
Number of Families or separate Occupiers (1921)	...	...			1,400 (about).
Rateable value	...	...	...		£31,769.
Assessable value	...	...	...		£30,755.
Sum represented by a Penny					
Rate	...	...	...	...	£124 8s. 7d.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		Boys.	Girls.
Births during the year	{ Legitimate	47	38}
	{ Illegitimate	2	0}
			87.
Birth rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	17.07.
Birth rate for whole of England	...	...	18.3.
Deaths registered in the District	...	...	60.
Corrections: Additions	... ..	8	
Deductions	... ..	14	
Deaths, net	... ..		54.
Death rate per 1,000 Population	...	...	10.6.
Death rate of whole of England	...	...	12.2.
Number of Women dying in consequence of Child-birth	... ..	...	Nil.

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1925.

No.	Cause.	Age.
1	Bronchitis	12 Days.
1	Bronchitis	6 Months.
1	Marasmus	10 Days.
	Infantile Mortality rate per 1,000 Births	34.4.

		Boys.	Girls.
Deaths during the year	Total ...	0	3
	Illegitimate (0	0	0)
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... ..	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil.

Comparative Table of Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Analysis of Mortality during the Year 1925.

(Provisional Figures. The rates for England and Wales have been calculated on a population estimated to the middle of 1925, while those for the towns have been calculated on populations estimated to the middle of 1924. The Mortality rates refer to the whole population as regards England and Wales, but only to civilians as regards London and the groups of towns.)

	BIRTH-RATE PER 1,000 TOTAL POPULA- TION.	ANNUAL DEATH-RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION.										RATE PER 1,000 BIRTHS.		PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL DEATHS.			
		All Causes.	Enteric Fever.	Small-pox.	Measles.	Scarlet Fever.	Whooping Cough.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Violence.	Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years).	Total Deaths under One Year.	Causes of Death certi- fied by Registered Medical Practitioners.	Inquest Cases.	Unidentified Causes of Death.		
England and Wales ...	18.3	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.15	0.07	0.32	0.47	8.4	75	92.1	6.9	1.0		
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns, including London ...	18.8	12.2	0.01	0.00	0.17	0.03	0.18	0.09	0.30	0.43	10.8	79	92.1	7.3	0.6		
157 Smaller Towns (1921 Adjusted Populations 20,000—50,000) ...	18.3	11.2	0.01	0.00	0.15	0.02	0.14	0.06	0.31	0.38	7.6	74	93.0	5.9	1.1		
London ...	18.0	11.7	0.01	0.00	0.08	0.02	0.19	0.11	0.23	0.46	10.6	67	91.1	8.9	0.0		
Buckhurst Hill ...	17.07	10.6	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	34.4	96.4	3.6	—		

POOR LAW RELIEF.

Unemployment Insurance has relieved the Poor Law Guardians to a great extent in this district, but the latter are still necessary in some cases. Cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Poor Law Infirmary at Epping.

The Forest Hospital, Buckhurst Hill, also treat necessitous cases without the usual weekly payment.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS.

During the month of January, 1925, three cases of enteric occurred in the one family living in the poorer district of the town. All had partaken of a meal of periwinkles previous to the onset of the disease, and it was thought that this might have been the cause of their illness. Efforts were made to trace the source of the periwinkles, but no contamination could be proved either from their source or during transit. All patients recovered.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidized by the local authority or by the County Council.

(1) TUBERCULOSIS.

Various institutions provided by the County Council (none in the district.)

(2) MATERNITY.

Nil.

(3) CHILDREN.

Nil.

(4) FEVER.

Cases are admitted to the Waltham Fever Hospital, which is partly supported by the District Council.

There is accommodation for 40 patients, and three diseases can be treated concurrently.

(5) SMALL POX.

Arrangements have been made with the West Ham Borough Council to receive and isolate cases at its Small-pox Hospital, through the Waltham Joint Hospital.

(6) OTHER CASES.

All cases other than the above mentioned are treated at the Forest Hospital, Buckhurst Hill, which is supported by voluntary contributions, together with payments by patients.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

a A Motor Ambulance is maintained by the Waltham Joint Hospital Board for removal of cases of infectious disease.

b No other ambulance is provided for the District.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

In 1918 a combined appointment of Maternity Nurse and Child Welfare Visitor was made and it still continues to work well. The Child Welfare Centre is again a great success. This is largely attributable to the great interest taken in it by the Voluntary Workers, Mrs. Abraham, Mrs. Fisher and Miss Bishop, and the untiring efforts of Nurse Aanensen.

The number on the Clinic register at the end of December, including 53 new entrants was 140, which shows an increase on last years figure which was 130. During the year 20 have left to attend school and four have left the district to reside elsewhere.

The average weekly attendance is 56.

That the facilities offered by the Council's Clinic to mothers in the district to obtain dried milk, virol, vitmar, cod liver oil and malt, etc., are greatly appreciated is proved by the fact that notwithstanding the compulsory closing of the clinic for some weeks on account of illness, the average weekly attendance is a substantial increase on last years figure.

It is gratifying to the Council to learn that their efforts and those of the Maternity Nurse are meeting with such encouraging results and it is hoped that the end of 1926 will show a further increase of average attendances.

Health Visits	...	...	446
Sick Visits	...	...	166
Ante-Natal Visits	...	...	266
Maternity Visits	...	...	391
Midwifery Cases	...	...	34
Doctor's Cases	...	...	8

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Officer.	Whole or Part Time.	If contribution is made towards Salary.	Certificates. Qualifications.
Medical Officer of Health.	Part	Yes.	M.R.C.S. & L.R.C.P.
Sanitary Inspector.	Part.	Yes.	A.B.S.A., & A.R.S.I.
Health Visitor & Midwife.	Whole.	Yes.	C.M.B. & Mem. Col. Nurses.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

No professional nursing in the home is provided by the District Council.

MIDWIVES.

The only Midwife practising in the District is Nurse Aanensen, the Council's Maternity and Child Welfare Nurse.

CHEMICAL WORK.

Arrangements exist for the examination of sputum for tubercle when necessary.

Swabs are examined for Diphtheria bacilli.

Anti-toxin is issued free on request from Medical Men in the district.

LOCAL ACTS.

Apart from the general Acts the following Acts have been adopted :

Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1890, Part 3.

Public Health Acts Do. 1907, Part 2.
(Except Section 25).

Do. Do. Part 3 and 4.
(Except Section 66).

Do. Do. Part 8 and 9.

BYE-LAWS.

New Streets and Buildings.

Respecting Nuisances.

Do. Slaughter-houses.

Do. Telegraph, etc., Wires.

Dairy Regulations and

Dairies, Cow Sheds and Milk Shop Order of 1885.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

WATER.

All houses in the District obtain their water supply from the Metropolitan Water Board. The water is hard, being obtained from deep artesian wells at Waltham Abbey and Chingford Mill, but the supply is constant and adequate and no complaints have been received.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

One complaint has been received from the County Council during the past 5 years as to pollution of the River Roding.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All drainage and sewerage is dealt with by the Council, and all houses are connected, and provided with satisfactory closet accommodation and flushing apparatus.

The Council's Sewage Works are situated on the Eastern border of the District, on the banks of the River Roding, where all sewerage from the Eastern slope is dealt with. The sewerage from the Western slope being treated at the Woodford Western Works.

The Council's Works consist of two settling tanks, primary and secondary, 3 sprinkler filter beds, a storm overflow bed, a humus tank, and about 1 acre for treating resultant effluent.

There have been no complaint of smells.

The improvements carried out at the Sewage Disposal Works during the past 5 years consist of a Humus Tank to clarify the effluent after leaving the Percolating Filters and the construction of a 60 ft. diameter Percolating Filter which has been in operation for a considerable time, and the major portion of the flow now passes through the Tanks, two Percolating Filters, and the Humus Tank and is discharging a very satisfactory effluent without land treatment.

The sludge from the settling tanks is run into furrows where it dries, and is afterwards carted away.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

There are approximately 1200 water closets and 2 earth closets in the district, the uses of which will be discontinued it is thought within the next twelve months.

The water carriage system has been in use in the district for over 20 years.

SCAVENGING.

Movable galvanized iron dust bins are in use and are emptied weekly on a tip which is utilised for the manufacture of bricks. This system has been in use for a great number of years.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a) 1058 Inspections and visits have been made during the year.

The 2 Slaughter-houses were regularly inspected and the meat examined therein was on the whole of good quality.

The 2 places of entertainment have been visited and found satisfactory in all respects.

The 2 fish frying premises have been inspected when frying was in progress and on every occasion they were found to be clean and the fish to be of good quality.

The various Forest ponds were treated during the breeding season to destroy the mosquito larvæ.

Factories, workshops, workplaces, and outworks premises have been inspected. In one place it was necessary to order a bakehouse to be limewashed, and in another case it was necessary to request separate accommodation for sanitary conveniences.

(b) The number of notices served during the year :—

(1) Statutory notices	...	1
(2) Informal notices	...	43

(c) The result of service of such notices:—
All complied with.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action has been necessary to-date.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

No action has been found necessary under this heading.

SCHOOLS.

The Metropolitan Water Board supply all Schools, the sanitary condition of which is good.

Schools are closed during an epidemic if considered necessary.

HOUSING.

GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA.

There is a shortage of houses yet, but not so noticable as during the previous years. The activity of private builders, the adoption of the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, 1899-1923, by the Council has gone a long way towards overtaking arrears.

There has been a slow but perceptable increase in population during the past five years, attributed to the desire of city residents to live in the suburbs, which is expected to continue while there is room for them.

OVERCROWDING.

Following the war some cases of overcrowding were notified. This was attributed to the cessation of building operations during the war. The continuance of building and the stern measures taken by the Council to suppress the evil has done much to abate this form of nuisance, and at present there are only six cases.

It is confidently expected that these will be remedied before the close of 1926.

FITNESS OF HOUSES.

The general character of the houses in the district is good. Most of the defects are those of leaky roofs, dampness, broken sash cords and floor boards, and defective fireplaces. These are mostly due to careless tenants and indifferent owners. Action is taken by the Local Authority to deal with these matters by

(a) The Public Health Acts.

(b) The various Housing Acts.

which have been found quite adequate on all occasions.

UNHEALTHY AREAS.

There are no unhealthy areas in the district.

BYE-LAWS RELATING TO HOUSES, TO HOUSES LET IN LODGINGS, AND TO TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, ETC.

(a) The existing Bye-Laws, based on the model Bye-laws issued by the Ministry appear to be sufficient, and

(b) Work satisfactorily in the district.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year 1925.

(a) Total (including numbers given separately						
under (b)	...	...	...	...	...	54.

(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts.

1. By the Local Authority	...	...	Nil.
2. By other bodies or persons	...	...	37.

UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

I.—INSPECTION.

(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	150
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were Inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910	38
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	Nil.
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	20

II.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	80
---	----

III.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

A. *Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919.*

(1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs... ..	nil.
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by Owners	nil.
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners... ..	nil.

- (3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close nil.

B. *Proceedings under Public Health Acts.*

- (1) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied nil.
- (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied —
- (a) by Owners nil.
- (b) by Local Authority in default of Owners nil.

C. *Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c., Act, 1909.*

- (1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders... ..
- (2) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made
- (3) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit
- (4) Number of Dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made
- (5) Number of Dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders
- } nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

The majority of the houses are supplied by three local retailers, who obtain their supply out of the district.

The supply is adequate and of good quality.

There is one cowkeeper with 38 milch cows and 22 young heifers.

The premises, the general condition of which is satisfactory, are periodically inspected.

The lay-out of the cow sheds fall far short of the ideal, but are kept as clean as possible and care is taken to prevent contamination of the milk. The sampling of milk, the inspection of and report thereon, is undertaken by the County Officials.

One application was granted for the sale of graded milk, but the sale of same has been discontinued.

Pasturized milk is not sold in the area.

(b) MEAT.

There are two Slaughter-houses in the district, one of which is visited 3 times a week.

The other is seldom used, and is visited when occasion arises.

The marking of meat under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, is not practised in the area.

All unfit food for human consumption is destroyed by fire at the Councils Sewage Works.

Shops are periodically visited to require compliance with the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.

There are no Public Slaughter-houses in the district.

NUMBER OF SLAUGHTER-HOUSES IN THE DISTRICT.

		In 1920.	In Jan., 1925.	In Dec., 1925.
Registered, {	...	2	2	2
Licensed }		—	—	—
Total	...	2	2	2

OTHER FOODS.

All shops that sell articles of food for human consumption are visited and unfit portions are seized and condemned. The quantity of such in the district is very small. Shopkeepers now hesitate to offer unsound food to the public, but generally destroy same on detection.

The Bake-houses are of an undesirable character. They are all old buildings, but as they are kept clean and in a sanitary condition no action can be taken.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

	No.	Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small-pox	Nil.	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	Nil
Scarlet Fever	3	3	Nil
Enteric, including			
Paratyphoid	3	3	—
Puerperal Fever	Nil	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	Nil
Cerebro Spinal Menigitis ...	1	1	—
Pneumonia	2	—	—
Anterior Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—
Tuberculosis—			
(a) Pulmonary M.	0	—	—
F.	2	—	—
(b) Non-Pulmonary M.	0	—	—
F.	0	—	—
Total	2	—	—
Total	12	7	Nil.

Number of Cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum notified—Nil.

ANALYSIS OF DEATHS ACCORDING TO AGE INCIDENCE.

Under 1 year	...	...	3
1 and under 2	...	...	0
2 " 5	...	...	1
5 " 15	...	...	0
15 " 25	...	...	4
25 " 45	...	...	3
45 " 65	...	...	17
65 and upwards	...	...	26

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.			New Cases.				Deaths.			
			Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5	...	...	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
10	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	...	...	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
25	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—
55	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	...	3	5	2	—	1	2	—	—

All cases of Death had been notified.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1925.

No action required.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925. Sec. 62.

No action required.

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.

Situated at Epping.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

The County Council has arrangements whereby patients are sent to certain London Hospitals.

MEASLES.

During the latter part of the year there was an outbreak of Measles which very materially affected the attendances at Schools in the district.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

SUMMARY OF WORK

done through the SANITARY INSPECTOR in the
Urban Sanitary District of Buckhurst Hill during
the Year ending December 31st, 1925.

Complaints received	5
Nuisances detected without complaint	195
Nuisances abated	195
Animals improperly kept	nil.
Sundry Nuisances abated	nil.
Houses inspected under the H. & T. P. A., 1909	38
Slaughterhouses	Visits 79
Bakehouses	„ 38
Dairies and Milkshops	„ 130
Cowkeepers	„ 10
Workshops and Workplaces	„ 20
Factories (excluding bakery visits)	„ 9
Houses disinfected	13
Overcrowding reported	8
Overcrowding abated... ..	nil.
Houses placed in a habitable condition	20
Houses closed... ..	nil.
Cisterns cleaned, covered, etc.	14
Drains entirely re-laid	nil.
Drains amended	8
W.C.'s repaired, etc., and Water supplied	15
Dustbins supplied	30
Drains tested	11
Offensive trade inspections	30
Summons taken out	nil.
Convictions	nil.
Filthy houses cleansed	nil.
Increase of Rent and Mortgage Acts—Certificates	nil.
Seizures of unsound meat, etc. A small quantity of Apples and Cheese	
Total number of visits and inspections	1,058

BUCKHURST HILL URBAN DISTRICT.

READING OF RAIN GAUGES FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1925.

January	...	...	...	...	1·76
February	...	...	...	...	2·58
March	...	...	...	...	·66
April ...	...	...	...	...	2·02
May ...	...	...	...	...	1·84
June ...	...	...	...	...	·14
July ...	...	...	...	...	3·88
August	...	...	...	...	2 31
September	...	...	...	...	2·27
October	...	...	...	...	2·77
November	...	...	...	...	1·54
December	...	...	...	...	2·25
Total					<u>24·02</u>

CHAS. R. DYKES, M.R.C.S. AND L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

